suitable modifications in the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade which is due for renewal by December 5, 2001.

Decline in jewellery export to USA

935. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gems and jewellery exports have suffered as a result of terrorist attacks in U.S. in September, 2001;

(b) if so, whether India is exploring the possibility of exporting these items to other countries; and

(c) if so, the names of the countries to whom exports of gems and jewellery has been increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to the global economic slow down, there has been a decline in the Indian exports of gems and jewellery to most of the major markets in the world. However, as per the provisional figures provided by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai (GJEPC), the exports of diamonds and gold jewellery during April—October 2001, from Mumbai, which is the most important exporting centre for gems and jewellery, have shown a slight increase in respect of some countries as compared to the corresponding period of the preceding year. The countries where Indian exports have shown an upward trend from Mumbai during April 2001-October 2001 include;

(i) Indian exports of diamonds to Australia, France, Mauritius, U.A.E., Switzerland, Thailand have shown an upward trend in April—October, 2001 *vis-a-vis* the corresponding period of the previous year.

(ii) Indian exports of gold jewellery to U.A.E., Spain, Kuwait, Fiji, France, Newzealand have shown an upward trend during the period April-October 2001 *vis-a-vis* the corresponding period of the previous year.

Export on onions from Karnataka

936. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Karnataka has sought the permission for the State agencies to export onion from Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) and (b) The Government of Karnataka had requested for appointment of Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd., (KSCMF), Bangalore as an additional State Trading Enterprise for export of Bangalore Rose Onion and North Karnataka Onion Growers Cooperative Society as another State Trading Enterprise for export of other varieties of Onion. The above recommendations were accepted by Government of India and these two agencies were included as additional State Trading Enterprise for export of Bangalore Rose Onions and other varieties of Onions respectively. The notifications in this regard were issued on 12.10.2001 and 27.7.2001 respectively.

Decline in leather export

937. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that global footwear producers including Reebok and Nike have decided to stop